

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-19 are now present in the application. No claims have been amended in this Reply. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuchitoi, U.S. Patent No. 7,145,683, in view of Ferlitsch, U.S. Patent No. 7,190,477. Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuchitoi in view of Ferlitsch, and further in view of Gassho, U.S. Patent No, 7,180,626. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including "a plurality of client stations adapted to submit print jobs, wherein each of the client stations includes means for generating and submitting a print account job which is generated as a second print job, the print account job containing account information of a corresponding print job and linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier; at least one printing device including a control unit and a printer, the control unit including storage means for storing the print jobs and the corresponding print account jobs submitted from the client stations to the printing device; and means for validating the stored print jobs for printing, wherein said validating means receives the

print account jobs and validates a corresponding print job for printing in the case a valid print account job generated as the second print job has been received.”

Independent claim 8 recites a combination of elements including “a control unit; and a printer, wherein the control unit is adapted to receive a print job, and a corresponding print account job generated as a second print job, the control unit including: storage means for storing the print job and the corresponding print account job in a holding queue; means for validating the stored print job for printing, said validating means being adapted to receive the corresponding print account job and validate the print job for printing in case the corresponding print account job generated as the second print job is valid.”

Applicant respectfully submit that the combinations of elements set forth in claims 1 and 8 are not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

The Examiner has correctly acknowledged that Tuchitoi fails to teach that the print account job is generated as a second print job and therefore fails to teach “a plurality of client stations adapted to submit print jobs, wherein each of the client stations includes means for generating and submitting a print account job which is generated as a second print job, the print account job containing account information of a corresponding print job and linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier” as recited in claim 1 and “the control unit is adapted to receive a print job, and a corresponding print account job generated as a second print job” as recited in claim 8.

However, the Examiner turned to rely on Ferlitsch’s teaching and alleged that Ferlitsch can cure the deficiencies of Tuchitoi. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Ferlitsch discloses a computer based printing system (see Fig. 5), which comprises a printing source 80, a printing apparatus 108 and a print server 116 including a job ticket spooler 164 and a job ticket queue 168. The printing source 80 keeps a queue of spooled print jobs for the accessible printing apparatus 108 in a spool directory until despoled to a port manager 96 associated with the printing apparatus 108. An additional file may be kept in the spool directory or in another location on disk or in memory that maintains an ordered list of spooled print jobs for the printing apparatus 108. Each entry includes information for identifying the spool data, the header and the queue information for a print job.

The Examiner referred to this additional file as the print account job of the present invention, which contains account information of a corresponding print job and is linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First of all, Ferlitsch's additional file contains account info of several jobs (see col. 10, lines 25-28), and each entry of the additional file is linked to a regular print job. However, since the additional file registers every spooled print job to be sent to the printing apparatus, the additional file contains usually information of more than one job. Unlike Ferlitsch, in the present invention, since every job has a corresponding print account job, and each print account job contains only information of the corresponding print job. There is a one-to-one relation between a print job and its corresponding print account job. Therefore, Ferlitsch's additional file is not the print account job as recited in claims 1 and 8.

Second, Ferlitsch nowhere discloses that the additional file is submitted to the printing apparatus 108 as a print job. Unlike Ferlitsch, in the present invention, since each time a print job is submitted, a print account job corresponding to the print job is also submitted. An

example of a submission command of a print job and a print account job is given in paragraph [0017]-[0020] of the present application. As embodied in the present application, the print job and the print account job can be linked by the job name and a unique code as follows:

Lpr "Tulip Bridge overall view - C715"

Lpr "[account info] Tulip Bridge overall view - C715"

In this example, each of the print job and the print account job are submitted via an Lpr command. The printing device is aware of the special prefix [account info] to recognize the print account job as a job providing account information for a corresponding print job having the same job name. Since each of the print job and the print account job is submitted as a print job, the system of the present invention has the advantage that both jobs can be treated in the same way until they reach the control unit of the printing device, and the control unit can distinguish the print jobs from the print account jobs based on the information such as the special prefix [account info]. These features are clearly absent from Ferlitsch and Tuchitoi.

Third, it was never the intention to consider the print account job as an additional file, containing account information, since the present invention also discloses an account log file 9, in which the account information of the print account job is stored (see paragraph [0024] and FIG. 4, step 20).

Fourth, in the present invention, the print account job is used to validate the corresponding print job before printing. However, Ferlitsch nowhere discloses that the additional file is used to validate any print job corresponding to the additional file when printing such a print job. Although the Examiner alleged that Tuchitoi discloses using ID and password to validate the corresponding print job before printing, the combination of Tuchitoi of Ferlitsch

still fails to teach using the additional file to validate the corresponding print job before printing. In fact, Tuchitoi and Ferlitsch nowhere disclose a mechanism to extract from the additional file the account information of a present job to be printed. Therefore, it is evident that Ferlitsch's additional file will not be used for validating any print job. Accordingly, the combination of Tuchitoi of Ferlitsch fails to teach "said validating means receives the print account jobs and validates a corresponding print job for printing in the case a valid print account job generated as the second print job has been received" as recited in claim 1, and "validating means being adapted to receive the corresponding print account job and validate the print job for printing in case the corresponding print account job generated as the second print job is valid" as recited in claim 8.

Fifth, combining Tuchitoi and Ferlitsch would lead to printing a print job and sending along with each print job the complete additional file as a second print application. This will be very cumbersome and *degrade* the system performance, since the additional file usually contains information of more than one spooled file, especially if the printing apparatus is frequently or constantly printing jobs. Therefore, the additional file containing more than one entry has to be sent several times to the printing apparatus. Since the additional file containing more than one entry, the redundant/irrelevant information not related to the current print job will still be sent every time, resulting in extra network traffic. This is also in contradiction with Ferlitsch, which is proposed to reduce network traffic. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify Tuchitoi in view of Ferlitsch's additional file.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Gassho, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings against some dependent claims. This reference also fails to disclose the above

combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, this reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Tuchitoi, Davidson and Combar.

Accordingly, none of the utilized references individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 8 clearly define over the teachings of the utilized references.

In addition, claims 2-7 and 9-19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 8, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 8, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-19 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cheng-Kang (Greg) Hsu, Registration No. 61,007 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

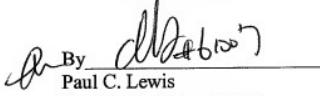
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


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